

Keep America Connected!

National Campaign for Affordable Telecommunications

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

David Newburger, Chair
ConnectMissouri

January 21, 1999

African Methodist
Episcopal Church
Al Chem
Alliance for Public Technology
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Alpha One
American Agri-Women
American Association for Adult
and Continuing Education
American Beekeeping Federation
American Coalition for Ethanol
Association for Gerontology and
Human Development at
Historically Black Colleges and
Universities
Campaign for Telecommunications
Access
Central Alabama Health
Alliance, Inc.
Communications Workers
of America
ConnectMissouri
Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Inc.
Federation of Southern
Cooperatives Land
Assistance Fund
Florida Association for the Deaf
Green County Democrat
Henry A. Wallace Institute for
Alternative Agriculture
MCIL Resources for
Independent Living
Mid-America International Agri-
Trade Council
Missouri Center on Minority
Health and Aging
National Agricultural Aviation
Association
National Association of
Commissions for Women
National Association of
Development Organizations
National Black Caucus of
State Legislators
National Council of
Senior Citizens
National Hispanic Council
on Aging
National Hispanic Law
Enforcement Association
The National Trust
National Latino
Telecommunications Taskforce
Northern Virginia Resource
Center for Deaf and Hard of
Hearing Persons
Palm Beach County Association
of the Deaf, Inc.
Personal Family
Service Corporation
Presidents Club for
Telecommunications Justice
Southern United States Trade
Association
United Homeowners Association
United Seniors
Health Cooperative
United States Durum
Growers Association
United States Telephone
Association
Universal Service Alliance
Virginia Public Interest Coalition
Wheat Quality Council
Women Involved in
Farm Economics
Women of Distinction
World Institute on Disability
Youth Entrepreneurial
Leadership Institute

Elizabeth Nightingale, Attorney
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JAN 21 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: **Keep America Connected January 20, 1999 Ex Parte Comments**
CC Docket No. 98-147

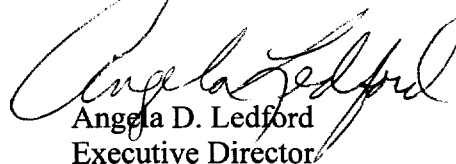
Dear Ms. Nightingale:

This is to confirm your telephone conversation with a Keep America Connected representative regarding the addition of the following organizations to the Ex Parte Comments submitted to the Commission on January 20, 1999: Harlem Consumer Education Council, National Association of Commissions for Women, National Hispanic Council on Aging, Telecommunications Advocacy Group, The National Trust for the Development of African American Men, United Homeowners Association, United Seniors Health Cooperative, Latin American Women and Supporters.

As you requested, I have revised the signatory page. I am forwarding by courier the revised Ex Parte Comments noting these additions.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 842-4080.

Sincerely,


Angela D. Ledford
Executive Director

Attachments

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List ABCDE

Angela Ledford
Executive Director

Keep America Connected!

P.O. Box 27911
Washington, DC 20005

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Leadership Institute

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Keep America Connected (KAC) and several other organizations have been actively involved in the Section 706 proceeding because we believe it has the potential to bring consumers the kind of access to advanced services that the business community already enjoys. But recently, the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA), while claiming to strongly support the rapid deployment of broadband services, made recommendations to the FCC that will effectively throw up roadblocks to consumers on the information superhighway, not encourage the high speed express ramps the nation needs.

NTIA's letter is little more than a "Hear, hear," endorsement of the FCC's proposals in the NPRM. It offers no new information or new evidence that the FCC's separate subsidiary requirement is necessary. Its reminder that "52,000 more Americans are logging on for the first time every single day" is evidence to us that growing demand will lead to a thriving market for advanced services. Already, high-end users have available to them the options of high-speed access. Removing the regulatory barriers for RBOCs enhances the possibility that residential consumers and harder to serve consumers will be given these same options.

Requiring separate subsidiaries to provide advanced services will not help those consumers, nor alleviate the current sluggish development of a comprehensive advanced communications system in this nation.

In fact, quite perversely, it could have the opposite effect. By requiring incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) to establish separate subsidiaries to deliver advanced services, the FCC is, in effect, mandating the creation of a whole new class of CLECs. Unfortunately, CLECs have been noticeably reluctant to deploy advanced telecommunications services except for *high-end business users*.

Angela Ledford
Executive Director

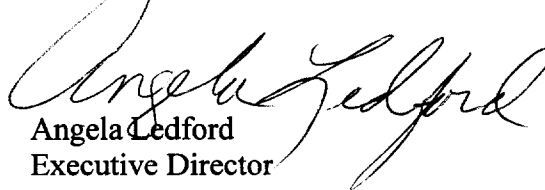
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The ubiquity of the telephone network is far and away the best hope for bringing consumers greater access to high-speed data services -- if the FCC will let them compete on a level playing field. The separate subsidiary requirement is a key roadblock to this goal. Removing it will help bring consumers real benefits from the information age and realize the best promise of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Sincerely,



Angela Ledford
Executive Director

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CC: Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Secretary Magalie Roman Salas